

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

FEA-01 /108 W

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R 251533Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0236

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

UDKMDQ/AMEMBASSY MADRID 1536

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 4362

E.O. 11652: XGDS1

TAGS: ETRD, OECD, GATT, AS, FI, IT

SUBJECT: GOI REACTION TO AUSTRALIAN AND FINNISH TRADE
MEASURES

1. DURING MARCH 20 CALL AT MINISTRY FOREIGN TRADE (MFT), EMB-OFF BRIEFLY DISCUSSED RECENT AUSTRALIAN AND FINNISH TRADE MEASURES WITH MFT REP SIMEONE (DIRECTOR, GATT-EC AFFAIRS).

2. SIMEONE SAID GOI HAD NOT RPT NOT YET FOCUSED ON FINNISH TRADE MEASURES, IN LARGE PART BECAUSE OF SMALL VOLUME OF TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. IN ANY CASE, SIMEONE NOTED, GOI IN NO RPT NO POSITION TO COMMENT ADVERSELY ON USE OF PRIOR IMPORT DEPOSITS AS MEANS OF RESTRICTING IMPORTS. SIMEONE DISCOUNTED IMPACT OF FINNISH TRADE MEASURES ON OECD TRADE PLEDGE, STATING THAT HE PERSONALLY DID NOT BELIEVE OECD TRADE PLEDGE SHOULD BE RENEWED BUT THAT HE HAD NOT RPT NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN SELLING THIS POSITION TO HIS SUPERIORS.

3. SIMEONE SAID MFT GREATLY DISTURBED BY RECENT AUSTRALIAN ACTIONS, WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS ONLY LATEST IN LONG SERIES OF MEASURES DEMONSTRATING ALMOST TOTAL DISREGARD FOR PRINCIPLES OF GATT. MOST DISTURBING WAS UNILATERAL AUSTRALIAN ACTION ON TEXTILES, WHICH APPEARS TO BE COMPLETELY INCONSISTENT WITH MULTIFIBER TEXTILE AGREEMENT. SIMEONE INDICATED IT HIGH TIME AUSTRALIA CALLED TO ACCOUNT FOR ITS ATTITUDE TOWARDS GATT PRINCIPLES AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE OBLIGATIONS.

4. COMMENT: MFT FEARS AUSTRALIAN TEXTILE RESTRICTIONS COULD LEAD TO COLLAPSE OF MULTIFIBER TEXTILE AGREEMENT, WHICH IS SEEN AS OFFERING VITAL PROTECTION TO ITALIAN MARKET AND DOMESTIC PRODUCERS. ON OECD TRADE PLEDGE, SIMEONE HAS CONSISTENTLY FAVORED COURSE OF ACTION WHICH WOULD PERMIT GOI MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY IN DEALING WITH BALANCE OF PAYMENTS/TRADE SITUATION. WHILE HIS VIEWS HAVE SOME SUPPORT WITHIN MFT, OTHER MINISTRIES HAVE RECOGNIZED ADVERSE PRECEDENT WHICH UNILATERAL TRADE MEASURES BY ITALY WOULD CREATE IN CURRENT SITUATION. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: IMPORTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, TRADE CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ROME04362
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750104-0702
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750318/aaaaapqp.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <14 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOI REACTION TO AUSTRALIAN AND FINNISH TRADE MEASURES
TAGS: ETRD, AS, FI, IT, OECD, GATT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006